(b) NHAI follows Federation Internationale Des Ingenieurs-Conseils (FIDIC) guidelines for contracts. As per the contract conditions, contractor is allowed to subcontract a part of a work with the permission of the "Engineer" (Supervision Consultant selected by NHAI) and Employer (NHAI).

(c) and (d) A case of subcontracting by M/s L and T -HCC (JV) beyond approved limit has come to notice for which action has been initiated by NHAI.

(e) and (f) The principal contractor is also responsible for the work done by the subcontractors. The works are tested as per the provisions of the contract by the consultants.

New Road Policy

1557. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a new road policy for development and management of roads throughout the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) by when such a new road policy is likely to be finalised and notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Policy for development and management of National Highways is constantly reviewed by the Government, to make it more effective, keeping in view the changing environment.

Smart Card based Driving Licenses

1558. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce smart-card based driving licenses/registration certificates through computerization of all transport offices;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the amount involved in this project;

(d) whether any fund is being given to States by the Central Government for implementation of this project; and

(e) if so, the deails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (e) The Department of Road Transport and Highways have notified the specifications of smart card based driving licenses and registration certificates vide notification No. G.S.R. 513(E) dated 10-8-2004. Standardized software for the purpose has been developed in consultation with National Informatics Centre (NIC) and made available to all States/Union Territories free of cost. Common specifications of smart card and related peripherals and the software would ensure its inter-operability throughout the country. An MOU had been signed by Department of Road Transport and Highways with NIC at a cost of Rs. 8.90 crores towards development of software, its testing, standardization etc.

Computerization of Transport offices in States/Union Territories is necessary for issuing a Smart Card based driving license/registration certificate. This is, however, to be done by the States/Union Territories themselves. No funds for this purpose have been given to the States by this Department.

Bypasses on National Highways

1559. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to construct bypasses on National Highways in various parts of the country to ease traffic congestion;

(b) if so, the details of proposals being discussed for construction of bypasses, State-wise; and

(c) the details of funds earmarked for each bypass project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals for construction of Calicut bypass on NH-17 in Kerala, Akola bypass on NH-6 in Maharashtra and Dalkola bypass on NH-34 in